

CLAIMS

1. A nasal cannula for delivering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen to a patient, the nasal cannula comprising a length of high pressure narrow bore tubing having a proximal end region for connection to a high pressure source of the pressure breathable gas mixture and a distal end region connected to at least one nasal administration device, wherein the nasal administration device or the distal end region of the tubing has at least one orifice for the expansion of the breathable gas mixture.
2. A nasal cannula according to claim 1, wherein the high pressure narrow bore tubing is coiled.
3. A nasal cannula according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the high pressure narrow bore tubing is of a ductile metal or alloy.
4. A nasal cannula according to claim 3, wherein the alloy is a cupro-nickel alloy.
5. A nasal cannula according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the high pressure narrow bore tubing is surrounded by a protective sheath.
6. A nasal cannula according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the nasal administration device defines a nasal prong or a pair of nasal prongs.
7. Apparatus for administering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen including means for supplying the breathable gas mixture at a high pressure and a nasal cannula according to any one of claims 1 to 6.
8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the said means includes a gas cylinder in which the breathable gas mixture is stored under pressure.

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9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture contains from 70 to 80% by volume of helium and from 20 to 30% by volume of oxygen.
10. Apparatus according to claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture is stored in the cylinder at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar.
11. Apparatus according to any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the stored breathable gas mixture contains 72% by volume of helium, balance oxygen.

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 07 June 2004 (07.07.2004);
original claim 1 replaced by amended claim 1; other claims remain unchanged
(1 page)]

1. A nasal cannula for delivering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen to a patient, the nasal cannula comprising a length of high pressure narrow bore tubing having a proximal end region for connection to a high pressure source of the breathable gas mixture at a pressure in the range of 100 bar to 300 bar and a distal end region connected to at least one nasal administration device, wherein the nasal administration device or the distal end region of the tubing has at least one orifice for the expansion of the breathable gas mixture.
2. A nasal cannula according to claim 1, wherein the high pressure narrow bore tubing is coiled.
3. A nasal cannula according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the high pressure narrow bore tubing is of a ductile metal or alloy.
4. A nasal cannula according to claim 3, wherein the alloy is a cupro-nickel alloy.
5. A nasal cannula according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the high pressure narrow bore tubing is surrounded by a protective sheath.
6. A nasal cannula according to any one of the preceding claims, in which the nasal administration device defines a nasal prong or a pair of nasal prongs.
7. Apparatus for administering a breathable gas mixture comprising helium and oxygen including means for supplying the breathable gas mixture at a high pressure and a nasal cannula according to any one of claims 1 to 6.
8. Apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the said means includes a gas cylinder in which the breathable gas mixture is stored under pressure.